



U.S. Department of Justice

Office of Information and Privacy

Telephone (202) 514-3642

Washington, D C 20530

FEB -4 2004

2/4/04

Mr. Rob Evans
The Guardian
119 Farringdon Road
LONDON EC1R 3ER

Re: FOI/PA No. 989132 - Bob (Robert Nesta) Marley

Dear Mr Evans.

This is to advise you that your administrative appeal from the action of the Federal Bureau of Investigation on your request for information from the files of the Department of Justice was received by this Office on January 20, 2004

The Office of Information and Privacy, which has the responsibility of adjudicating such appeals, has a substantial backlog of pending appeals received prior to yours. In an attempt to afford each appellant equal and impartial treatment, we have adopted a general practice of assigning appeals in the approximate order of receipt. Your appeal has been assigned number 04-0886. Please mention this number in any future correspondence to this Office regarding this matter.

We will notify you of the decision on your appeal as soon as we can. The necessity of this delay is regretted and your continuing courtesy is appreciated.

Sincerely,

Priscilla Jones
Administrative Specialist

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2/19/04
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SRU-



(preproc)

The Guardian

119 Farringdon Road
London EC1R 3ER
Telephone 020-7278 2332

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FBI
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December 31 2003

Case control number 0989132-000

OFFICE OF INFORMATION
AND PRIVACY

JAN 20 2004

Dear Sir/Madam,

RECEIVED

I am writing to lodge an appeal against the denial of information in relation to a Freedom of Information request.

On December 3 2003, I submitted a request to the FBI for records relating to the singer, Bob (Robert Nesta) Marley. On December 23, the FBI responded, enclosing 10 pages, but some of the material had been withheld

The FBI stated that some of this material was being withheld under section (b) (1). I would like to ask the FBI to reconsider if this material is properly classified under this exemption and if the release of the material would really cause damage to national security or foreign relations. I would like to ask the FBI if this material which appears to relate to events more than two decades ago has faded in sensitivity and can now be released.

The FBI stated that some of this material was being withheld under section (b) (7) (c). I would like to make it clear that I am not appealing against this exemption if the material relates to government officials. However I would like to ask the FBI to consider releasing material which relates to well-known public figures and politicians. I believe that any potential damage to their privacy is outweighed by the public interest in disclosing this material. Given that they play a significant role in public life, I believe that the public has a right to know more about their activities as recorded by the FBI. I am therefore arguing that the public interest would be better served by disclosing this material rather than keeping it secret.

The FBI stated that some of this material was being withheld under section (b) (7) (d). I would like to ask the FBI to reconsider if this material would really be expected to disclose the identity of a confidential source, particularly since the events occurred more than 20 years ago. I understand that this exemption can only be used if the source was expressly promised confidentiality. I would like to ask the FBI to reconsider if this is the case.

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I hope that upon re-consideration, you will reverse the decision denying me access to this material and grant my original request. I am willing to discuss my appeal and can - if necessary - be contacted on [redacted]
[redacted]

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For administrative reasons, I would be grateful if could send all correspondence to the following address : [redacted]
Britain RH4 3HT

Thank you for your help in this case. I look forward to hearing from you in the near future

Yours sincerely,



ROB EVANS

